

**FIRST REPORT ON THE SPECIES WHICH UNDER THE
"RÈGLES" ARE THE TYPE SPECIES OF CERTAIN
GENERA OF BIRDS DISCUSSED, BUT LEFT UNSETTLED,
IN "OPINION" 16**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

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During its Session of Meetings held in Paris in 1948, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature decided, in accordance with its earlier decision that names ought not to be discussed in its *Opinions* without decisions being given in regard to the questions at issue (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 355), that steps should be taken as soon as possible to determine, and to render *Opinions* regarding, the species to be accepted as the type species of a long list of nominal genera enumerated in *Opinion* 16 (1910, *Smithson. Publ.* **1938** : 31-39) as possibly having had their type species determined under Linnean tautonymy (i.e. by the citation of a tautonymous pre-1758 univocal specific name for one, but not more than one, of the included nominal species), on which however no decision was given in that *Opinion*. The Commission decided (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 580-583) to invite the Secretary to make inquiries in regard to each of the generic names concerned for the purpose of ascertaining the views currently held by specialists on the question whether, as regards each of the genera so named, the generic name was available nomenclatorially, the genus was a taxonomically valid genus, and the species accepted as its type species was the species which, as shown in the second paragraph of *Opinion* 16 (1947, *Opinions and Declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* **1** : 259-261), would be the type species if Rule (d) in Article 30, as interpreted by *Opinion* 16, were in fact applicable to the name of the genus in question. The Commission agreed further that, where (1) the foregoing inquiry showed that the type species of any one of the nominal genera discussed in *Opinion* 16 was the species there provisionally indicated as such, (2) that the nominal genus in question was currently treated by specialists as being taxonomically valid and as having, as its type species, the species referred to above, the name of that genus should forthwith be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, and that in any case where any of the foregoing conditions were not satisfied, the status of the name concerned should be determined separately as soon as possible after the receipt of the Secretary's Report.

2. The present Report is concerned with the names of the twenty-two nominal genera of birds covered by the foregoing decision. In each case I have investigated the position, as disclosed by the current literature, and, in doing so, I have conferred with a number of interested specialists. In order to secure the widest possible publicity for this investigation, I have in addition published a note on the issues to be determined, at the same time appealing to specialists for comments and assistance in regard to the names in question (1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **7** : 201-202).

3. As a first step in the present investigation I examined the manner in which each of the nominal genera concerned was treated by Linnaeus in the Tenth Edition of the *Systema Naturae*, for the purpose of determining whether there was a *prima facie* case for considering that the type species of the genus concerned had there been "indicated" by Linnean tautonymy as defined in *Opinion 16*, as further clarified in 1948 by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology on the recommendation of the International Commission (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4: 155). This investigation showed:—

- (1) that there were *prima facie* grounds for considering that the type species of the following eighteen nominal genera had been indicated in 1758 by Linnean tautonymy:—*Caprimulgus*; *Certhia*; *Corvus*; *Cuculus*; *Fringilla*; *Fulica*; *Loxia*; *Meleagris*; *Merops*; *Motacilla*; *Pavo*; *Pelecanus*; *Phasianus*; *Scolopax*; *Sterna*; *Strix*; *Tringa*; *Upupa*;
- (2) that in the following cases it was a matter for consideration whether a single autonymous univocal specific name had been clearly cited in the synonymy of any of the included species: *Otis*; *Tetrao*; *Vultur*;
- (3) that in the case of the genus *Charadrius* Linnaeus, 1758, the tautonymous univocal pre-1758 specific name "*Charadrius*" had been cited in the synonymy of more than one of the included species (being so cited both for *Charadrius hiaticula* and for *Charadrius oedicnemus*) and therefore that the type species of the genus *Charadrius* Linnaeus, 1758, was not "indicated" by Linnean tautonymy.

4. The names cited in paragraph 3(2) and (3) above (i.e. *Otis* Linnaeus, 1758; *Tetrao* Linnaeus, 1758; *Vultur* Linnaeus, 1758; *Charadrius* Linnaeus, 1758) are not dealt with in the present Report, being reserved for later consideration in the light of comments and advice received from specialists.

5. The second step in the inquiry remitted to me was to ascertain whether in each of the eighteen cases specified in paragraph 3(1) above the nominal species which there were *prima facie* grounds for considering as having been "indicated" by Linnaeus in 1758 by Linnean tautonymy as the type species of the genus concerned was currently accepted by specialists as being the type species of the genus in question. This investigation showed that in every case except that of *Strix* Linnaeus, 1758, the nominal species indicated as the type species by Linnean tautonymy was currently accepted as such. The case of *Strix* Linnaeus is accordingly reserved, like that of the names referred to in paragraph 4 above, for further consideration in the light of comments and advice from specialists. In the remaining seventeen cases the generic name concerned is currently accepted by specialists as the name of a taxonomically valid genus. Further, the trivial name of the type species of each of these nominal genera is an available name and is currently accepted by specialists as the name of a taxonomically valid species.

6. Having now completed the first stage of the investigation remitted to

me. I submit the following conclusions for consideration :—

- (1) The seventeen generic names enumerated in Appendix 1 to the present Report are nomenclatorially available and are currently accepted by specialists as the names of taxonomically valid genera, and the species currently accepted as the type species of each of the nominal genera concerned is the nominal species indicated as such by Linnaeus in 1758 by Linnean tautonymy. Accordingly under the decision taken in 1948 by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4**:583, Point (3)(a)), these names are due now to be placed upon the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.
- (2) The seventeen specific trivial names enumerated in Appendix 2 to the present Report, being respectively the trivial names of the type species of the nominal genera referred to in (1) above, should, under the regulations governing the admission of names to the *Official Lists* (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4**:270), be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* at the same time that, under (1) above, the names of the nominal genera, of which the species bearing these trivial names are the respective type species, are placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :
- (3) The five remaining generic names remitted to me for investigation (*Charadrius* Linnaeus, 1758 ; *Otis* Linnaeus, 1758 ; *Strix* Linnaeus, 1758 ; *Tetrao* Linnaeus, 1758 ; *Vultur* Linnaeus, 1758) will be dealt with in later Reports on the conclusion of consultations with interested specialists.

FRANCIS HEMMING,

*Secretary to the International Commission on
Zoological Nomenclature.*

28 Park Village East,
Regent's Park,
LONDON, N.W.1, England.

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APPENDIX 1

Seventeen generic names in the Class Aves discussed but not settled in "Opinion" 16, now proposed to be added to the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology"

- Caprimulgus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 193 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Caprimulgus europaeus* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 193).
- Certhia** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 118 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Certhia familiaris* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 118).
- Corvus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 105 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Corvus corax* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 105).
- Cuculus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 110 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Cuculus canorus* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 110).
- Fringilla** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 179 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Fringilla coelebs* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 179).
- Fulica** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 152 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Fulica atra* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 152).
- Loxia** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 171 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Loxia curvirostra* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 171).
- Meleagris** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 156 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Meleagris gallopavo* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 156).
- Merops** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 117 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Merops apiaster* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 117).
- Motacilla** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 184 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species by Linnean tautonymy : *Motacilla alba* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 185).
- Pavo** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 156 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Pavo cristatus* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 156).
- Pelecanus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 132 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 132).
- Phasianus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 158 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Phasianus colchicus* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* 1 : 158).

- Scolopax** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 145 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Scolopax rusticola* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* **1** : 146).
- Sterna** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 137 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Sterna hirundo* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* **1** : 137).
- Tringa** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 148 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Tringa ochropus* (emend. of *ocrophus*) Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* **1** : 149)*.
- Upupa** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 117 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by Linnean tautonymy : *Upupa epops* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* **1** : 117).

APPENDIX 2

Seventeen specific trivial names, being the trivial names of the type species of the nominal genera enumerated in Appendix 1, now proposed to be added to the "Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology"

- alba** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 185 (as published in the combination *Motacilla alba*) (trivial name of type species of *Motacilla* Linnaeus, 1758).
- apiaster** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 117 (as published in the combination *Merops apiaster*) (trivial name of type species of *Merops* Linnaeus, 1758).
- atra** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 152 (as published in the combination *Fulica atra*) (trivial name of type species of *Fulica* Linnaeus, 1758).
- canorus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 110 (as published in the combination *Cuculus canorus*) (trivial name of type species of *Cuculus* Linnaeus, 1758).
- coelebs** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 179 (as published in the combination *Fringilla coelebs*) (trivial name of type species of *Fringilla* Linnaeus, 1758).
- colchicus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 158 (as published in the combination *Phasianus colchicus*) (trivial name of type species of *Phasianus* Linnaeus, 1758).
- corax** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 105 (as published in the combination *Corvus corax*) (trivial name of type species of *Corvus* Linnaeus, 1758).

*For the reason why it is here suggested that the emended form of the trivial name of the type species of this genus should be accepted, see Note to Appendix 2.

- cristatus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 156 (as published in the combination *Pavo cristatus*) (trivial name of type species of *Pavo* Linnaeus, 1758).
- curvirostra** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 171 (as published in the combination *Loxia curvirostra*) (trivial name of type species of *Loxia* Linnaeus, 1758).
- epops** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 117 (as published in the combination *Upupa epops*) (trivial name of type species of *Upupa* Linnaeus, 1758).
- europaeus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 193 (as published in the combination *Caprimulgus europaeus*) (trivial name of type species of *Caprimulgus* Linnaeus, 1758).
- familiaris** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 118 (as published in the combination *Certhia familiaris*) (trivial name of type species of *Certhia* Linnaeus, 1758).
- gallopavo** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 156 (as published in the combination *Meleagris gallopavo*) (trivial name of type species of *Meleagris* Linnaeus, 1758).
- hirundo** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 137 (as published in the combination *Sterna hirundo*) (trivial name of type species of *Sterna* Linnaeus, 1758).
- ochropus** (emend. of *ocrophus*) Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 149 (as published in the combination *Tringa ochrophus*) (trivial name of type species of *Tringa* Linnaeus, 1758).
- onocrotalus** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 132 (as published in the combination *Pelecanus onocrotalus*) (trivial name of type species of *Pelecanus* Linnaeus, 1758).
- rusticola** Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 146 (as published in the combination *Scolopax rusticola*) (trivial name of type species of *Scolopax* Linnaeus, 1758).

NOTE.—Attention is drawn to the fact that in the foregoing list the form in which it is suggested that the trivial name of the type species of *Tringa* Linnaeus, 1758, should be added to the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* is “ochropus” and not “ocrophus,” the spelling employed by Linnaeus in 1758. Linnaeus evidently had no fixed ideas as to how this word should be spelt, for (as pointed out by Witherby, 1940, *Handbook Brit. Birds* **4** : 310) Linnaeus used the spelling “ocropus” in the Twelfth Edition of the *Syst. Nat.* In 1758 Linnaeus made it clear that, in applying this name to the Green Sandpiper, he was doing no more than copying it from Gesner (510, 511), reference to whose work shows that Linnaeus made an error in copying from Gesner (or the printer misread Linnaeus’ manuscript), for the spelling used by Gesner was “ochropus,” the currently accepted emendation of the incorrect version “ocrophus” of the 10th edition of the *Systema Naturae*. Since the foregoing conclusion was reached, the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress has submitted to the International Commission an application (Z.N.(S.)491) for the emendation under Article 19 of the trivial names of three species of bird, one of which is the name discussed above. (See page 52 of the present volume.)